

For Immediate Release

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*Washington, D.C.* --- Congressman Sires spoke on the House Floor today in support of H.R. 4247, Keeping All Students Safe Act, a bill which establishes minimum safety standards for restraint and seclusion in schools. H.R. 4247 passed the House by a vote of 262 to 153.

“One instance of harmful restraint of our children is one too many ---- I am proud to support our nation’s first national effort to address this problem.” said Congressman Sires. “Schools should be a setting where children can safely grow, develop, and thrive.

This legislation was introduced in response to a recent investigation by the U.S. Government Accountability Office that found hundreds of allegations of students being abused as a result of misused restraint and seclusion. H.R. 4247 would set a standard similar to federal protections that are already set in other facilities which receive federal taxpayer dollars. Specifically, this bill would prohibit mechanical restraints, chemical restraints, and any intervention that would compromise the health and safety of our children. To increase oversight and transparency so that future abuse is prevented, states would be required to collect and report data annually to the Secretary of Education.

“As a former teacher, I know that teachers and other school employees have the best interests of the children at heart,” said Sires. “This legislation will address the problem of harmful restraint and ensure the safety of both children and school professionals.”

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